

Amendments to the Specification

Amendments are hereby made to the specification as indicated below. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(b)(1)(i), Applicant hereby instructs that each paragraph identified herein is to be replaced with a respective replacement paragraph. The location of each paragraph to be replaced is unambiguously identified below with respect to the previous version of the specification.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(b)(1)(ii), the full text of each replacement paragraph is provided below with markings to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(f), Applicant submits that the amendments made herein introduce no new matter into the application.

First, please insert as the first paragraph of the specification the following paragraph:

The present application is a continuation-in-part of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to, U.S. patent application serial number 10/665,169, which application is a nonprovisional patent application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to, U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/451,433. The present application further is a nonprovisional of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to, U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/451,433 through the '169 Application.

Second, please insert the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph found at lines 12-18 of page 6 of the application as filed:

~~In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a packaged diaper is provided and includes a densified diaper volumetrically reduced to a second reduced volume and increased density from a first greater volume and lesser nominal density. The reduction of the diaper can entail reduction in one or more dimensions. An encasement can also be provided in which the diaper can be disposed in the second reduced volume. The encasement can confine the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the reduced volume by the encasement.~~ In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a packaged diaper is provided and includes a diaper being reduced to a second, increased density from a first, nominal density. The increased density of the diaper can be in at least two dimensional directions relative to the nominal density. An encasement can also be provided in which the diaper can be disposed in the second, increased density. The encasement can confine the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the increased density by the encasement.

Third, please insert the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph found at lines 24-25 of page 10 to lines 1-10 of page 11 of the application as filed:

As an example, it has been found that by drawing a vacuum down to about 5 ~~millibars~~~~Mbar~~ at room temperature and pressure at a location about 5,000 feet elevation above mean sea level, the volume of the diaper can be reduced to as little as 1/3 or 1/4 that of the nominal volume. Similar results are to be expected at locations of different elevation. However, as is known, at lower elevations a greater vacuum can be drawn to allow for subsequent transportation of the packaged product to higher elevations. For example, vacuum packaging using a vacuum down to 1 or 2 ~~millibars~~~~Mbar~~ is common at lower elevations. Thus, in the space required to store one conventional diaper, three, four, or more, diapers packaged in accordance with the invention can be stored. The reduced volume packaged diapers are not only advantageous in reducing storage space, the space required for packaging, shipping, etc., is also reduced, leading to considerable cost savings in associated processes.

Fourth, please insert the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph found at lines 23-25 of page 14 to lines 1-9 of page 15 of the application as filed:

~~In several embodiments of the invention, a reduced diaper is provided. The reduced diaper is densified by volumetric reduction from a first[,] greater volume and lesser nominal density to a second reduced volume and increased density. An encasement can also be included and the diaper can be disposed in the encasement in the second[,] reduced volume. The encasement can thereby confine the reduced diaper so that the diaper is retained in the reduced volume by the encasement. The volumetric reduction can entail dimensional reductions in width, thickness, length, and diameter. In this manner, a volumetrically reduced, space efficient densified diaper is provided that can be easily stored and carried by an individual in a discreet manner. Upon release of the reduced diaper from the encasement, the diaper can be volumetrically expanded and used in the same manner as conventionally packaged diapers.~~ Similarly, in one embodiment of the invention, a packaged diaper is provided and can include a diaper being reduced to a second, increased density from a first, nominal density. The increased density of the diaper can be in at least two dimensional directions relative to the nominal density. An encasement can also be included and the diaper can be disposed in the encasement in the second, increased density. The encasement can thereby confine the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the increased density by the encasement. The two dimensional directions can include a width and thickness of the diaper, a width and length, a diameter and length, etc. In this manner, a reduced sized, space-efficient densified diaper is provided that can be easily stored and carried by an individual in a discreet manner. Upon opening of the encasement the diaper expands to its nominal density, typically a greatly expanded size, and can then be used in the same manner as conventionally packaged diapers.